

REMARKS:

By this Amendment, claims 13, 17, 18, 20, and 50-61 are cancelled and claim 7 is amended, thereby leaving claims 6, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 46-49 unchanged.

The Examiner indicates that the application contains claims directed to the following distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 16, and 46-49;
- II. Claims 17, 18, and 20;
- III. Claims 50, 51, 53, 54, 56-57, and 60; and
- IV. Claims 52, 55, 58, 59, and 61.

Applicant would first like to indicate that dependent claim 7 is hereby amended to correct a typographical error relating to its claim dependency. More particularly, claim 7 previously and incorrectly depended from independent claim 17 and is hereby amended to correctly depend from independent claim 16. Accordingly, dependent claim 7 is included in the invention group identified above as Invention I.

Applicant would secondly like to clarify a few typographical errors presented by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed October 31, 2007. First and in connection with the Examiner's identification of Invention I, the Examiner mistakenly identified "Claims 9-8", when in fact the claim identification should read "Claims 6-8". Secondly and in connection with Invention III, the Examiner erroneously left out claim 53, which clearly depends from independent claim 54. Accordingly, dependent claim 53 should be considered part of Invention III.

Applicant is required to elect a single invention. By this Amendment, Applicant elects, without traverse, Invention I relating to claims 6-8, 10, 11, 16, and 46-49 as identified by the Examiner.

Applicant is also required to elect one of the following Species identified by the Examiner:

- Species I: Figs. 1-13; and
- Species II: Figs. 14-44.

By this Amendment, Applicant elects, without traverse, Species II relating to Figs. 14-44. Applicant is required to identify which claims read upon the elected species. Accordingly, Applicant submits that pending claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 16, and 46-49 read upon elected Species II.

The Examiner currently acknowledges that independent claim 16 is generic. Applicant respectfully agrees. Applicant also submits that claims 7, 8, 10, 11, and 46-49 are generic.

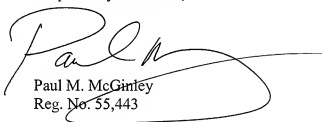
Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of these restricted and cancelled claims in one or more divisional patent applications if the restriction requirement is upheld and prosecute other aspects of the application in one or more continuation patent applications.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing, examination of the current application on the merits is respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,



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Docket No. 066042-9415-01
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